

DISTRICT V ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes
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March 7, 2005
7:00 p.m.

Auburn Hills Golf Course Clubhouse
443 S. 135th West

Ten District Advisory Board Members including six City Staff attended the District V Advisory Board meeting. Approximately five members of the public were present with four signing the signup sheet.

Members Present

David Almes
Bob Bulman
David Dennis
Maurice Ediger
Jerry Hoggatt
Andy Johnson
John Marker
DeAnn Sullivan
Ann Welborn
Steve Winslow
Council Member Bob Martz

Staff Present

Officer David Wertz, Police
West Patrol Officers (3)
Dave Barber, Planning
Dana Brown, City Manager's Office

Guests

Betty Ladwig, 406 N. Jaax
Clete Dold, 218 S. Breezy Pt. Cr.
Ron Franks, 249 N. Woodchuck
Jeff Longwell, 7806 W. 17th

Members Absent

Scott Johnson
Anthony Vu
Monica Vashaw

Call to Order

Bob Martz, City Council Member, called the meeting to order at 7:012. He welcomed the public to the meeting and introduced Jeff Longwell as member of the Maize Board of Education. Council Member Martz noted that he and Mr. Longwell had visited about various issues that impacted each of their areas of representation due to approximately 90% of the Maize students living in City Council District V.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The minutes for February 7, 2005 were approved as presented by a vote of 10:0 (**Johnson/Hoggatt**). The agenda was accepted as presented.

Community Police Report

Community Police Officer David Wertz, Beat 16, reported for the all police beats in District V including 16, 19, and 199. He warned that with warmer weather, several crime categories were expected to increase due to past trends. One trend has been an increase in larcenies from automobiles so residents are reminded to lock their cars and park in their driveways, if possible.

Another reminder is to keep garage doors closed, even if working outside, to prevent tools and other equipment from being stolen. Officer Wertz also reported that theft continues at construction sites where development is occurring. Most common stolen items include lumber and appliances.

Officer Wertz stated that the project to provide renters with city information is continuing. Some apartment complex owners had been contacted regarding interest in distributing the information and others are scheduled for contact. To date, interest has been expressed.

High accident intersections continue to be a concern, stated Officer Wertz. The intersection of Maple & Ridge in City Council District V has been reported as having a very high accident rate and is unique in that it is part of three Police Beats, #16, #18, & #199. Its accident rate has decreased significantly from previously being 4th highest to falling out of the top 20 high-accident intersections. Part of this is due to a focused education effort by Police, stopping vehicles and noting a violation with distributing information on illegal left-turns, failure to yield right-of-ways, driving through a red light, and others. Another part of the decrease is probably due to reduced traffic numbers due to the completion of West Kellogg.

DAB Members asked if any feedback was available from Police about the concern noted at the February meeting—difficulty seeing the curbing marking for right-turns on Maple & Tyler. The same concern was noted when turning east on Maple off southbound Maize. **Officer Wertz** said he would follow up and contact Public Works, if necessary.

Council Member Martz asked if any information had been received from Park & Recreation concerning tennis nets being cut down in Sunset Park, located on 17th Street between Maize & Tyler. Staff provided a printed e-mail about the concern to Officer Wertz who said he would talk to Officer Perkins, the Community Police Officer for Beat #199. **Winslow** offered assistance in watching the area for vandalism as he has a friend who lives next to Sunset Park.

Action: The information was received and filed.

New Business

Proposed Wichita-Sedgwick County Comprehensive Plan Amendments

Dave Barber, Planning Department, presented proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan being considered by the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission. The amendments pertain to the *2030 Wichita Functional Land Use Guide* and the *Wichita and Small Cities 2030 Urban Service Areas Map*.

Barber said the amendments addressed several issues including future provision of municipal services, given realistic growth expectations. One strategy was to develop a long-term plan to secure water sources beyond the Equus-beds, as these are not expected to provide water past the year 2030. He said action had begun through the creation of a coalition to focus on this need. Several other strategies included assuring the water quality of Equus-beds, participation in Ground Water Recharge Development, and the use of ground water through recharge, currently being addressed through the Ark River Task Force. Council Member Martz serves on the task force. Barber said that the Regional Economic Area Project (REAP) was becoming more involved in water issues and that flood plain management is being addressed by Wichita and the smaller cities in Sedgwick County working together.

Council Member Martz noted that more state funding was needed due to fragmentation of state representatives. He said that unity on priorities for water was necessary to make this happen.

Barber said other strategies included watersheds and regional and county efforts. He also said proposed amendments that include policy changes are being held until the Visioneering process is completed.

A separate issue in the proposed amendments is providing employment-based development. Barber pointed out that this would happen with anticipated construction of Northwest Bypass and K-96 and increased development in areas between Wichita and Maize.

Board Members asked whether a master plan existed for park space to which Barber said the one “on the books” is very old and most of the information is no longer applicable. Also noted was an issue with showing the Big Slew on the waterway map.

Board Members recommended by a vote of 10-0 that the Council approve the amendments (Bulman/Sullivan).

Action: Recommended City Council approve the proposed amendments.

Community Council on Homeless Advocacy Committee

Ron Franks, Community Council on Homeless Advocacy (CCHA) Committee Member, presented information about CCHA and the role of a subcommittee for CCHA, the Community Advisory Council. He referred to a chart showing how the subcommittee provides serves as advisory for the CCHA.

The Committee is requesting District Advisory Board Members to volunteer for service on the subcommittee. Last year, HUD identified community involvement as a weakness in the application so the intent is to expand the Advisory Committee.

Franks said the definition of homeless had changed his understanding of the homeless situation as he now realizes that anyone could be vulnerable if a catastrophic event occurred in their lives. He said that Wichita has 600-700 homeless men, women, & children on any given night.

The Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) as funded by Housing & Urban Development (HUD) provides the Homeless funding. The federally designated funding of \$1 million is allocated for this effort with an additional \$1 million potential. The application is submitted on an annual basis.

The subcommittee reviews and ranks applications for the Community Council and this information is included in the application to HUD. The Advocacy Council typically spends two-three days with approximately 7-10 hours in receiving training and then completing the review and ranking. The time period usually begins in April and concludes in July.

Council Member Martz stated that this is a very important process and opportunities existed for volunteers to not only serve on the Advisory Committee but to also work with CCHA on other efforts.

Board Members asked various questions such as whether Wichita had adequate facilities for 600-700 people each day/night; what percentage of the number are transients; and what percentage is considered mentally ill. Franks responded to each question saying that he believes facilities are adequate for that number for temporary housing but the facilities are typically full. The community needs permanent housing, employment, outreach, and case management services through Social & Rehabilitative Services (SRS), physician care, and other public health and social services. The agencies that serve the homeless make children the first priority. As for collecting information to report percentages of populations with different needs, the service agencies are beginning to keep more complete records but the Privacy Act is definitely an obstacle. United Way is working on improving this but tracking is difficult. However, the community does have recommended guidelines.

DAB Member, Maurice Ediger, volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Action: Board Member, Maurice Ediger, was appointed as a subcommittee member.

Board Agenda

Updates, Issues, and Reports

Reports given about activities, events, or concerns in the neighborhoods and/or District V.

Staff reported on attending the awareness program for community members as an introduction to *Terrorism and Criminal Extremism*, hosted by the Regional Community Policing Institute located at Wichita State University. Reference was made to an e-mail previously sent with details of the session and a handout was provided on the *Citizens Role in Counterterrorism* including websites and other references. Additional sessions will be provided in the future and notices will be sent when the sessions are scheduled.

Staff also announced that the previous Presidents Council meetings held quarterly for homeowner and neighborhood association board presidents on city programs and services had been reorganized. Although the schedule will remain as quarterly meetings, the format has been changed to presentations on current community projects and issues including an open forum for discussion and citizen input. The input will be provided to the City Manager for forwarding to the City Council Members. The first session was held March 3 at the WATER Center in Herman Hill Park with a program presented on Visioneering by Vice Mayor Brewer and Don Checots, General Manager of KPTS-TV. A survey was distributed to help determine the program and the meeting site.

DAB Members

Various Issues: Members asked about progress on the traffic signal for Central & 119th. Staff will check with Public Works and send an update.

An inquiry about the completion date for the 13th Street Bridge, west of 119th was made. It is currently scheduled for mid-May but completion may be extended past this time, depending on weather affecting construction.

Members also asked about utilities being moved for the expansion of Central between 119th & 135th and how that would affect access for residents who live off Central. One Member reported

that during the expansion of the section where he lived, the street was never closed so access was not an issue.

One DAB Member expressed opposition to doing a Century II study for renovation to the facility. He said that at the very least, DAB input should be received. The **Council Member** stated that currently, only an examination of expanding Century II was being considered.

Council Member

Firefly & Azure Projects: Council Member Martz reported on the Public Works meeting held last on the evening of March 3 for the residents of Firefly and Azure area. He reviewed that residents presented a petition for paving with curb & gutter. After the city received the petition, it was learned that the Water & Sewer Department would be construction a lift station with a force main in the area. Although the additional project for sanitary sewer would be an additional assessment for the residents, some savings would be realized through doing the sanitary sewer and paving together by the City paying for aesthetics of restoration. In addition, paving with curb & gutter versus asphalt mat with ditches would be decided only by residents living in the north area as the south area residents had already petitioned separately for curb and gutter.

Due to the existence of valid paving petition, the city is obligated to complete the project. Council has approved the project and a contractor has been hired. The design engineer had provided cost options for the paving project and Public Works distributed the information to the residents at the meeting, including costs for sanitary sewer. The information showed that the cost of asphalt mat with sanitary sewer would be about the same as curb & gutter.

Residents were encouraged to make a decision on sanitary sewer, not to wait for one of the resident's septic system to have problems and force the City to order-in sanitary sewer. Waiting to do until that happens at a later date would cost the residents more.

Of the 23 residents invited to the meeting, 13 attended and voted for asphalt mat. One of the residents agreed to carry the petition for sanitary sewer and water. The order-in process was also explained

National League of Cities - Council Member Martz stated that he would be out of town at the National League of Cities conference in Washington, D.C. from Friday, March 11 to Thursday, March 17.

With no further items, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

The next regular meeting for District Advisory Board V is scheduled at Auburn Hills Clubhouse at **7:00 p.m. on April 4, 2005.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana Brown, Neighborhood Assistant
City Council District V